Sovereign Grace Church

April 23rd, 2023

We gather together
Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. and
Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

"…He hath made us accepted in the Beloved"

(Ephesians 1:6)

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Is not JESUS Himself emphatically called Mercy, and the mercy promised? [Luke 1:72]. And is He not Truth itself? [John 14:6]. And is He not Righteousness, yea, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS? [Jeremiah 23:6; 1 Corinthians 1:30]. And is He not the Peace of His people? [Isaiah 9:6; Ephesians 2:14,17; Micah 5:5]. And where did ever those seemingly opposite attributes meet, so as to concur and unite for the salvation of sinners, but in the person of JESUS? Mercy inclines to pardon: Truth must stand; and God said, the soul that sinneth it shall die. Righteousness admits of no abatement [concessions]: Peace by the cross satisfies every demand. Was there ever an assemblage of divine qualities so brought together, and so illustriously displayed for man's salvation, as here in the person of our Christ? Oh! thou Emmanuel! Oh, thou Lord our righteousness! did truth spring out of the earth, and didst thou look down from heaven, yea, come down on thy blissful errand to save sinners, to reconcile all things to thyself? Oh give me to see that all the divine perfections are now eternally satisfied by thy wonderful and mysterious meeting; and that Jehovah hath now glorified Himself, and made thy church eternally and everlastingly happy, in the *perfect salvation* of thy blood and righteousness. [AMEN!] — Robert Hawker

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Welcome

SINNERS are welcome at Sovereign Grace Church. We are a local body of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you spend time with us, you'll soon discover we're an imperfect assembly, with an imperfect pastor, yet by God's *undeserved* grace, we preach, believe, and know the perfect gospel of our never failing Lord Jesus Christ. Reader, we call His name Jesus for He shall (not might, not maybe) rather He shall save His people from their sins. And beloved believing sinner you already know it! You are *complete in Him*, saved to the *uttermost* [Colossians 2:10, Hebrews 7:25].

Announcements

Happy Birthday!

Tyler Richards, April 23rd
Alyson Murphy, April 25th
Chyles Coutney, April 29th

Resources

BE sure to visit our website for gospel articles, live messages, and resources.

"…for whatever does make manifest is light…"

"But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light; for whatever does make manifest is light."

(Ephesians 5:13)

FEELING is the first evidence of supernatural life; a feeling compounded of two distinct sensations, one referring to God, and the other referring to self. The same ray of light has manifested two opposite things, "for that which makes manifest is light;" and the sinner sees at one and the same moment God and self, justice and guilt, power and helplessness, a holy law and a broken commandment, eternity and time, the purity of the Creator and the filthiness of the creature. And these things he sees, not merely as declared in the Bible, but as revealed in himself as personal realities, involving all his happiness or all his misery in time and in eternity.

Thus it is with him as though a new existence had been communicated, and as if for the first time he had found there was a God. One ray of supernatural light, penetrating through the veil spread over the heart, has revealed that dreadful secret—a just God, who will by no means clear the guilty. This piercing ray has torn away the bed too short, and stripped off the covering too narrow. A sudden, peculiar conviction has rushed into the soul.

One absorbing feeling has seized fast hold of it, and well-near banished every other. "There is a God, and I am a sinner before him," is written upon the heart by the same divine finger that traced those fatal letters on the palace wall of the king of Babylon, which made the joints of his loins to be loosed, and his knees to smite one against another [Daniel 5:5, 6].

"What shall I do? Where shall I go? What will become of me? Mercy, O God! Mercy, mercy! I am lost, ruined, undone! Fool, madman, wretch, monster that I have been! I have ruined my soul. O my sins, my sins! O eternity, eternity!" Such and similar cries and groans, though differing in depth and intensity, go up out of the new-born soul well-near day and night at the first discovery of God and of itself. These feelings have taken such complete possession of the heart that it can find no rest except in calling upon God.

This is the first pushing of the young bud through the bark, the first formation of the green shoot, wrapped up as yet in its leaves, and not opened to view. These are the first pangs and throes of the new birth, before the tidings are brought, *"A man-child is born." "What shall I do to be saved?"* cried the jailer. *"God be merciful to me a sinner!"* exclaimed the tax-collector. *"Woe is me, for I am undone!"* burst forth from the lips of Isaiah. — J.C. Philpot

listen online

A portion from "**Daily Words For Zion's Wayfarers**" available at bookshelf.sovereigngrace.us

‘Accepted in the Beloved’

“To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved” (Ephesians 1:6)

READER, upon what do you rest your hope of acceptance before a holy God? Baptism? Church work? A religious experience? A moral reformation? All these things, in themselves, are vain, empty and useless. They are worse! Apart from the knowledge of Christ, they are a positive curse. If you and I trust anything, in any measure, for our total acceptance before God, other than Jesus Christ, we shall surely perish! ‘Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace’ [Galatians 5:4].

Our text declares that *‘He* [God the Father] *hath made us accepted in the beloved* [God the Son].’ Here is a doctrine full of consolation to our hearts. God Almighty has made all of his people accepted, perfectly and completely, in Christ! It is no marvel that we should accept Christ. But there is wonder in this, that God accepts us, sinners deserving his wrath, in Christ Jesus! Beloved, there exists a positive and eternal union between Christ and his people. We are one with Christ. A rapturous thought! Bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh! ‘We are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.’ We are one with Christ in his heart from all eternity. Our names are written beneath his in the book of God’s eternal election. We are in the hands of Christ, as the Surety of our redemption and eternal glory. We are in the loins of Christ spiritually. As in Adam we sinned and died, even so in Christ we died upon the cross and rose again! And we are in his very person. By a living faith we are joined to the God-man. He lives in us and we live in him! This is the vital union of faith, enjoyed by God’s elect. This is the beginning of heaven and eternal glory. Being accepted in Christ, we have become the objects of God’s pleasure. As God is pleased with his Son, he is pleased with all who are in his Son. Think of this, believing soul: God is well- pleased with you for Christ’s sake! ‘He hath made us accepted in the Beloved.’ [AMEN!] — Don Fortner

listen online

‘His All-perfect Salvation’

“And He shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.” (2 Samuel 23:4)

WHO can this be but JESUS? Of whom, among the sons of men, could it ever be said that he was as a morning without clouds? Neither angels, nor men; nor ordinances, nor graces, nor all the moons of the night, nor the suns of the day, ever shone as a morning without clouds. What a sweet similitude to represent Him, and His all-perfect salvation, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning! [AMEN!] — Robert Hawker

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